

In the Claims:

Claims 1-37 (cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) A method of raising antibodies, which method comprises administration of a soluble polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 to an animal host to stimulate production of antibodies.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38 which further comprises administration of an adjuvant together with the soluble polypeptide.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Previously Presented) A method of raising antibodies, which method comprises administration of a soluble polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9 wherein Thr residues number 130 and Gly residue number 358 shown in SEQ ID NO:9 are replaced by Ile and Asp residues, respectively, to an animal host to stimulate production of antibodies.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, which further comprises administration of an adjuvant together with the soluble polypeptide.

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Cancelled).